

**Loudoun County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee
Wednesday February 3, 2021, 7:16 p.m.**

Executive Committee:

Chair - Sharon Tropf

Vice Chair Planning - Shehnaz Khan

Vice Chair Membership - Heidi Bunkua

Vice Chair Communications - Craig Metz

Secretary - Kathryn Rosenbrook

Liaisons:

Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special

Education Beth Barts, School Board

Leslie King, Scholl Board (Alternate)

Member Attendance: A quorum of SEAC voting members was confirmed with Vice Chair of Membership with 13 out of 15 members present.

Business Meeting Agenda February 3, 2021

- I. Welcome and Call to Order, Sharon Tropf, SEAC Chair 7:16 Explained the role of SEAC, Regulations, and SEAC Leadership
- II. Public Comment-
 - Elizabeth Noriega- How is LCPS planning to provide recovery services to students that have missed so much time?
 - Adelina Ventura-Needs the information about getting GED. We will provide information to parent services.
 - Beth Fowler- Thank you Chair Sheridan for her apology to the special education community and had concerns with compensatory services, predetermination, and the lack of a service delivery continuum.
- III. Reports and Updates.
 - A. SEAC Chair.
 - School Board Chair, Brenda Sheridan attended the SEAC meeting to share her personal apology to the special education community for the incident that occurred during public comment at the January 26, 2021 meeting. The SEAC Chair and Chair Sheridan had a productive conversation regarding the incident and both are confident with the solid action plan created to rectify the situation. Chair Sheridan wants SEAC to assist in the revision of Policy 2520, Participation By the Public and she would like to be an active party in the revisions.
 - SEAC Bylaws are ready for the membership to vote on the revisions. The proposed changes have been presented to the membership and the SEAC Chair requested guidance from Dr. Nelson on the process for the revisions to be presented to Mr. DeVita, School Board Counsel. The Bylaws Revisions address: membership

requirements, virtual meetings, nominating committee.

- Nominating Committee has been formed. Heidi Bunkua and Shehnaz Khan will co-chair. They will be reaching out to the membership for Executive Committee positions to prepare for the April election. Please consider taking on a position.

Membership.

- PTA/PTO Representatives. Currently have 27 representatives.
- Membership. A new application has been received and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

Current Issues.

- Community Independence Instruction (CII). The current five-mile radius limitation was not supported or a recommendation from SEAC. A history of the CII transportation challenges have been compiled and provided to the Pupil Services Committee.
- Equity Committee. SEAC Representative is Craig Metz, Vice Chair of Communications. Next meeting is February 4, 2021.
- Annual Plan. SEAC has requested a copy of the Annual Plan before it is presented in March during the SEAC meeting.
- 2021-2022 SY Presentation Schedule in being planned, please provide any feedback to the Executive Committee.
- Special Education Task Force recommendations are in the editing process.

B. Executive Committee Next meeting February 15, 2021 @ 6:30. Open to the public.

C. Subcommittees Formation. SEAC has three functioning committees. Instructions for establishing meeting times and requirements have been sent to each SEAC Member.

- Policy Committee currently reviewing:
 - Set aside fund usage and budget.
 - IEE community concerns.
 - Policy 2520, Participation By the Public
- Specialized Programs:
 - Transition
 - Literacy
- Executive Functioning and Social-Emotional Learning
 - Will prioritize the areas to focus on based on the survey.

D. Parent Resource Services. New website design with easy to find information. Trainings will be a mix of livestream and pre-recorded. All flyers and workshops are posted on the website. Sign up for the Keep in Touch option offered from Parent Resource Services.

E. School Board Liaison-Beth Barts.

- Students are returning to school in two phases. February 16 and March 3. February 26 is an asynchronous day to allow secondary teachers to prepare for student return to in

person learning.

F. Pupil Services and the Office of Special Education.

Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education.

- Addressed the concerns brought forth by the public for compensatory services. There is a plan to offer remedial services and credit recovery. Summer services will be offered both in Distance Learning and Hybrid.
- Extended School Year service program dates are June 28 to July 29.
- The Office of Special Education has reviewed the Balanced Literacy Instruction and continues to investigate meeting the needs all students through a blended approach of the Specialized Reading Practices.
- Set Aside Funding was reviewed for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 SY.
- John Lody, Director of Diagnostic and Preventative Services reviewed the process that is utilized for the availability of services and the Child Find process.
- Dr. Clark Bowers, Director of the Office of Student Services reviewed proposed changes to Policy 8155, School Assignment. He reviewed the special permission request and appeals process for special education students.

Dr. Asia Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services.

- Budget highlights include a focus on the whole child. This includes expanded summer programming, a plan to strengthen instructional and behavioral supports and COVID Recovery Services.
- Student health services staff have received vaccines in phase 1A and teachers are receiving vaccines though phase 1B as determined by the governor.

IV. New Business:

A. Review of Policy 8155:

Before voting on the recommendations presented by the SEAC Policy and Compliance Committee, there was discussion of the new changes to the policy presented by Dr. Bowers.

The Policy committee shared two primary concerns:

1. The policy has restrictions that specifically single out and limit the special education students from being able to use special permission. No other groups of students are singled out and treated differently.
2. Reallocating staffing to meet student needs is not an undue burden.
 - Recommendation from the Policy Committee: Remove language from the policy 8155 that singles out and places separate restrictions on special education students.
 - The motion passed with 10 yes and 2 abstentions.
 - Recommendations will be presented to the Pupil Services Committee and be presented to the School Board at the February 23, 2021 meeting.

V. Adjourn. 9:34 p.m.